

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 11, 2011, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:14 PM.

Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Karen A. Lynch, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, Marjorie J. McBride, Susan Rancourt and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Diana B. Campbell

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

None

NECAP PRESENTATION

Superintendent Thies introduced the Director of Literacy, Mary Almeida. Ms. Almeida thanked the School Committee, the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for the opportunity to present the NECAP results in reading and writing. Ms. Almeida gave the following PowerPoint presentation. Within the presentation Ms. Almeida pointed out that through the reporting years the numbers undulate because these are different cohorts of students. The literacy strands are: Word Identification and Vocabulary, Information Text, Initial Understanding and Analysis & Computation. Ms. Almeida noted that grades four and five had an increase in students, students who came from other districts.

Areas of concern include Grade 5 writing proficiency (decrease) and Grade 8 writing proficiency being only one percent higher than the state average; however, Mt. Hope is second in the state in Grade 11 writing proficiency. Mr. O'Dell asked if good readers become good

writers and if writing assignments are tied in to reading assignments. Ms. Almeida believes this is true and that writing does improve with instruction; instruction is aligned to the standards, some being easier than others and personal preference is a factor.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Mario Andrade, presented the NECAP Math Assessment results. He thanked the School Committee, the Superintendent and members of Administration for the opportunity to present and the audience for their presence. Dr. Andrade stated we do our best to reach both ends of the proficiency spectrum and provide resources for all levels. The assessment strands are: Numbers & Operations, Geometry & Measurement, Functions & Algebra, and Data, Statistics & Probability. Of concern is the decrease in level of proficiency as the grades go up. The math curriculum is currently being revamped and revised. The Superintendent had set a goal to increase our math scores by 10%. Common trends are identified by studying the various assessments; although gains have been made over the past five years, we are setting expectations higher.

Dr. Andrade reviewed some information from the R I Department of Education that categorizes schools by level of proficiency and level of growth, placing each school into a quadrant delineated as high proficiency with high level of growth; low proficiency with high level of growth; high proficiency with low level of growth; or low proficiency with low level of growth. RIDE places high importance on rate of growth; lack of student growth in eighth grade math is a great concern. Mr. Saviano asked how critical thinking scores are improved. Dr. Andrade said through analyzing data and conversations to clarify who is responsible for what at each grade level.

Dr. Andrade then introduced our New England recognized math intervention team who was instrumental in setting up the math lab classrooms and modeling best practice—Christine Hughes, Nicole Correia and Sara Bogdon. Superintendent Thies explained the math team's early intervention in grades K through 2 has dramatically increased math proficiency. The team further explained they developed their own seamless curriculum unique to Bristol Warren,

created a short screening to identify students in need of the 45 minutes intervention; they reduced the number of students needing intervention from 121 to 21, using techniques such as “supertizing” (identifying the number in a set of objects without having to count), using doubles, skip doubles, building on 10s and teaching real world situations. The team explained and demonstrated the different strategies used. The goal is 90% proficient, or a 75% increase. The goals are a challenge for the team, but special educators are also given the intense training the team crafted. Family engagement is important and links are provided on the District website to Everyday Math and resources to algorithms as well as to study sites. The early intervention approach was spearheaded by Mrs. Thies who believes in monitoring outcomes and building an organizational structure with the support to sustain it; she complimented the team for their wonderful job. Mr. Bento thanked the team for their presentation and for the work they are doing for our students.

The following is the information they presented.

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell informed the Committee the April 18 Budget meeting is cancelled because the Superintendent will be away and it would be wise not to have discussion on cuts without her present.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault reported three policies will be up for a second reading at the next full Committee meeting – physical restraint policy, energy star policy, and no CFC policy. The next Subcommittee meeting is May 4, 5:30 PM at Oliver, when discussion will continue on the Rockwell boundaries as well as on a newly required indoor air quality policy, and the tobacco, alcohol and other drugs policy.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano stated negotiation sessions are scheduled for April 18, May 12 and May 19; he appreciated everyone's participation in a very

productive session that was held on Saturday.

FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Mrs. Lynch said a Task Force discussion will be on the May Workshop agenda; the kindergarten numbers will be reviewed with discussion on how the Task Force should move forward. Mr. Bento suggesting educating/updating the new members of the Task Force.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell was not present to give an update.

MOTION: At 9:45 PM Mrs. Lynch motioned to extend the meeting time past 10:00 PM. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:50 PM

MOTION: At 9:50 PM Mrs. Lynch motioned to go into Executive Session to for an update on collective bargaining; Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mrs. Arsenault will recuse herself from the session. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bento announced that no action will be taken during the Session or when open session resumes.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 10:09 PM

**In Executive Session, the Committee discussed collective bargaining.
Mrs. Arsenault recused herself from discussion.**

ADJOURNMENT – 10:10 PM

**At 10:10 PM Mrs. McBride, seconded Mrs. Lynch motion to adjourn.
The motion was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/c